

On the Detection of Image-Scaling Attacks in Machine Learning **ACSAC'23**, 08 Dec 2023

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Motivation



Data preprocessing is often necessary for machine learning





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- ► Computer Vision
 - Scaling necessary to match input dimensions
 - ▶ VGG19 expects $224 \times 224 \times 3$ pixels

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- Preprocess text to make it suitable for ML
- Examples: Tokenization, lowercase conversion, stemming, stop word removal





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 - ▶ VGG19 expects $224 \times 224 \times 3$ pixels
- Natural Languages
 - Preprocess text to make it suitable for ML
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Unfortunately, preprocessing brings a new attack surface → "Adversarial Preprocessing" [Quiring et al., Usenix Sec'20]



Motivation: Image Scaling





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Image-Scaling Attacks



Manipulated image changes appearance after downscaling

Xiao et al. 2019

Image-Scaling Attacks



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Image-Scaling Attacks



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▶ Both goals must be achieved: $T \simeq D$ and $S \simeq A$

Xiao et al. 2019

Possible attacks





Quiring and Rieck 2020, Xiao et al. 2019

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CA OF LARGE-SCALE ADVERSARIES



Possible attacks

False predictions at test time



Quiring and Rieck 2020, Xiao et al. 2019



Possible attacks

► False predictions at test time

Conceal manipulations at training time





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Possible attacks

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Capabilities and knowledge

- Attack is agnostic to learning model, data, features
- Knowledge of scaling algorithm only needed

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Quiring and Rieck 2020, Xiao et al. 2019



Source Image S

Output Image D

Quiring et al. 2020



Source Image S





Quiring et al. 2020



Source Image S





Quiring et al. 2020



Source Image S





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Quiring et al. 2020





Quiring et al. 2020

Scaling Attack Example





Scaling Attack Example









Defenses

Two defense strategies

Prevention: Implement robust scaling by design



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Defenses

Two defense strategies

- Prevention: Implement robust scaling by design
- Detection: Find out that an attack is going on [This work]

Reasons:

- Be able to scan image collections or to identify attacker
- Robust scaling is slower than vulnerable scaling
- Detection necessary for proprietary learning systems



Paper Contribution: Detection of Scaling Attacks



▶ First in-depth systematization and analysis of detection

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- ► Two general paradigms identified
- Novel detection methods for these paradigms



- ▶ Paradigm: Analyze frequency spectrum of image
- Frequency representation shows periodical patterns



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(a) Unmodified image S



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- Recall root cause: Attack injects pixels in periodic distance
- ► Thus, attack causes unique, periodic frequency peaks



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(a) Unmodified image S



(b) Attack image A

General Paradigm 2: Spatial Analysis



- ► Paradigm: Analyze pixels of image
- Naturally advantage of knowing (potentially modified) scaling pixels

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Variant 1: Adversarial-Signal Driven



General Paradigm 2: Spatial Analysis



- ► **Paradigm**: Analyze pixels of image
- Naturally advantage of knowing (potentially modified) scaling pixels

Variant 1: Adversarial-Signal Driven



Variant 2: Clean-Signal Driven



Paper Contribution: Detection of Scaling Attacks (Continued)



- ▶ First in-depth systematization and analysis of detection
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Paper Contribution: Detection of Scaling Attacks (Continued)



- First in-depth systematization and analysis of detection
- Two general paradigms identified
- Novel detection methods for these paradigms
- Comprehensive evaluation
 - ▶ In total, 19 detection methods compared
 - Diverse modification scenarios (full, overlay, or just local image modification)
 - Varying setups:
 - Multiple learning platforms & scaling algorithms
 - ImageNet with varying images & scaling ratios
 - Static & adaptive adversaries

Some Key Results (1/2) Global scenario







Local scenario

Some Key Results (1/2) **Global scenario**







Local scenario



DO NOT ENTER	
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Under static attackers:

- ▶ Frequency paradigm is excellent in global & local scenario
- ▶ Spatial paradigm is excellent in global, and satisfactory in local scenario



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Under adaptive attackers:

- ► Frequency paradigm is vulnerable
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- ▶ Frequency paradigm is excellent in global & local scenario
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Under adaptive attackers:

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- Spatial paradigm provides robustness

Recommendation: Use Ensemble





- Data preprocessing is essential in ML
- Unfortunately, it leads to a new attack surface



Summary

- Data preprocessing is essential in ML
- Unfortunately, it leads to a new attack surface
- "Adversarial Preprocessing" relevant in multiple domains
 - Image-scaling attacks in computer vision
 - NLP attacks

See No more Reviewer #2: Subverting Automatic Paper-Reviewer Assignment using Adversarial Learning, Eisenhofer, Quiring, et al., Usenix Sec'23



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- Data preprocessing is essential in ML
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- ► This work:
 - First in-depth systematization and analysis of detection
 - Efficient detection of scaling attacks possible
 - Ensemble of varying paradigms necessary

References I



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- [2] Erwin Quiring and Konrad Rieck. "Backdooring and Poisoning Neural Networks with Image-Scaling Attacks". In: Deep Learning and Security Workshop (DLS). 2020.
- [3] Qixue Xiao, Yufei Chen, Chao Shen, Yu Chen, and Kang Li. "Seeing is Not Believing: Camouflage Attacks on Image Scaling Algorithms". In: Proc. of USENIX Security Symposium. 2019.